



## City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Affairs Program

### *2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA*

The City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Affairs Program addresses legislative initiatives at the county, state, and federal levels which follow annual legislative calendars. The program mission is to develop and advocate for the Flagstaff community by fostering and maintaining relationships with individuals and entities that affect the City's interests. As a member of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, the City of Flagstaff has helped develop and sign on to League Resolutions. Council adoption of the League resolutions, our identified priorities and guiding principles which are incorporated as part of our legislative agenda.

The Guiding Principles of the League and our own Guiding Principles below strengthen local government, promote City goals and defend the City against legislative actions by the State or Federal governments that weaken our authority or take away traditional revenue sources.

### ***GUIDING PRINCIPLES***

- **Local Control:** Protect local revenues and local authority, which reflect core principles for local government. Flagstaff believes local government best represents local communities in the areas of regulatory, finance, and administrative decision-making. This representation requires opposing any unfunded mandates at the federal and the state levels. Partnerships to develop positive relations are essential for success. This can be accomplished informally and formally by agency and also through participation in joint meetings with the County as well as The Alliance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century whose membership includes Coconino Community College (CCC), Coconino County, the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD), and Northern Arizona University (NAU). Periodic meetings with Hopi and Navajo tribes are also beneficial for partnership on matters of mutual concern as well as membership in Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) to be involved in planning of our regional transportation and the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG).
- **Council Goals:** Advancing or defending goals of the City Council and adopted legislative priorities in affect during the 2015 legislative session does not require additional council action.

### ***STATE - LEGISLATURE***

- **STATE SHARED REVENUES:** Protect state shared revenue to municipalities as a revenue percentage and a revenue source.
- **HURF FUNDING LEVELS INCREASE:** Full lobbying support in coordination with the League Resolution to restore HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds) dollars and actions that restore 2008 levels of funding as well as allocate new dollars to transportation.

- **PENSION REFORM:** In coordination with the League of AZ Cities and Towns, support efforts relating to pension reforms which obtain greater flexibility to manage pension plans affecting municipal employees. This includes obtaining more control of determining part-time classification.
- **ENERGY DISTRICTS:** Seek enabling legislation for 'sustainable Energy Districts' that provides flexible financing authority for commercial entities via finance mechanisms for upfront investment capital in energy efficiency improvements to properties.
- **FOREST HEALTH:** Support any state efforts designed to reduce forest fire dangers in the region, encouraging state investment opportunities or matching funds to treat areas in and around cities.
- **PROCUREMENT LAW CHANGE:** Allowing the sales tax to be paid as part of the total bid price when considering the "lowest, responsible bidder"
- **RESTORATION OF THE HOUSING TRUST FUND:** Remove the \$2.5m cap and allow the State's Housing Trust Fund to be fully funded through unclaimed property proceeds received by the State annually.
- **SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS:** May

### **STATE - GOVERNOR**

- **Water:** Secure easement rights for required water transmission line located within Interstate 40 right-of-way or other Council-approved route.
- **Prevail with commitment from Governor's office in coordination with AZ Dept. of Transportation (ADOT).**
- **VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Seek funding in the Governor's Budget for the establishment of a VA Home in Bellemont as financial support needed from the State as matching funds to the federal allocation for the home.

### **FEDERAL**

- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Support President's \$263m. pledge to equip all police officers with body cameras
- **RIO DE FLAG FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT:** Complete the Limited Re-evaluation Report and obtain necessary approvals from the Assistant Secretary of the Army so as to be included in any USACE work plan or report to Congress as an authorized project.
- **FOREST HEALTH:** Leverage voter approved FWPP (Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project) bonds for forest restoration with federal dollars to maximize acreage to be treated and ensure that resources and funding continue to flow to important regional projects such as the federal pilot program known as 4FRI (Four Forest Restoration Initiative) and NAU's ERI (Ecological Restoration Institute).
- **FAA (Airport):**
  - Resurface & Restripe Runway which has aged excessively; continue funding request of \$3.3m
  - Construct non-revenue, multi-level parking structure to increase passenger parking capacity at the airport terminal; funding request FY 2016 \$4m and FY 2017 \$4m for a total estimated project cost of \$8m.

- Purchase 167.89 acres of Airport land, which contains Runway Protection Zone, Avigation Easement, Lake Mary Park land and the Water Treatment Plant; funding request FY 2018 in the amount of \$6.7m.
- RAILROAD REVERSIONARY CLAUSE: Seek relief from the Federal Government reversionary clause on property sold to the City by BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) Railroad.
- TRANSPORTATION – Secure authorization and fiscal resources for the Regional Transportation Plan priorities including Lone Tree Interchange and the 4th Street Bridge over I-40, along with widening of Highway 180.

### *Further Collaboration*

Support regional, state and federal partnerships that may advance applicable legislation in support of the City of Flagstaff.

<b>Regional</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>National</b>
Coconino County	League of Arizona Cities and Towns	National League of Cities and Towns
Flagstaff Unified School District	Coconino Community College	Conference of Mayors
Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG)	Northern Arizona University	US Forest Service
Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA)	AZ Game and Fish	US Parks Service
Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA)	Arizona State Land Department	Hopi Tribal Nation
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Greater Arizona Mayors' Association (GAMA)	Additional State Agencies
Chamber of Commerce		Additional Federal Agencies